



CALPEEK

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CALPEEK's ELECTION GUIDE TO RUN NEXT WEEK.
CALPEEK's Fall 1990 Election Guide may not blow your socks off, but it will be a handy and helpful resource for the November election. And you have CALPEEK's permission to xerox this issue...

GOP SEARCHING FOR SEASTRAND REPLACEMENT.

The untimely death of veteran GOP Assemblyman Eric Seastrand of Salinas about 10 days ago means that the 3 Republican county central committees which make up the coastal 29th A.D. will have to pick a replacement candidate. As CALPEEK went to press, the leading contender was Andrea Seastrand, wife of the late lawmaker, but she wasn't the only Republican being mentioned as a potential replacement. Other names which have popped up include Coastal Commissioner Steve MacElvaine, who is a former county supervisor from San Luis Obispo; and Mayor Ron Durin of San Luis Obispo...

...The district includes all of San Luis Obispo County and parts of Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties. The 3 GOP county central committees had not set a date for a meeting to select a replacement when CALPEEK went to press, but most sources say it will be fairly soon...

...As CALPEEK readers may recall, the exact same thing happened two years ago when then GOP Assemblyman Dick Longshore of Orange County died suddenly after the primary. It took a couple of weeks for that particular central committee to pick a replacement...

...Demo John Lybarger, a retired teacher, was nominated to run against Seastrand in the November elections. The district has a Demo registration of about 39%, while the GOP has nearly 48%, meaning that whomever the Republicans select to replace Eric Seastrand will have a hefty edge. And if the 3 central committees should pick Mrs. Seast-

rand, she will have the added benefit of both excellent and positive name I.D...

...Seastrand was first elected to the State Assembly in 1982. A year later he was diagnosed as having cancer. There will be a memorial service in Sacto sometime after the summer recess. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: THE PETE AND DIFI MOVIE.

If they were to make this 1990 campaign for governor into a movie, it probably wouldn't be a summertime blockbuster. About the only people who would flock to the theaters en masse would be political junkies, who consume political gossip as fast as avid movie goers eat popcorn. But neither U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson(R) nor former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein(D) seemed to be troubled by the lack of public or news media attention at this point. They have other fish to fry...

...June has now turned into July and both campaigns are in the process of fine tuning for the fall battle. For DiFi, there is more to do to get ready...

...For the past month she's been "Dailing for Dollars" in an attempt to narrow the HUGE gap between her empty campaign war-chest and that of Wilson's, which is still flush with money. CALPEEK sources in the Feinstein campaign say the effort is paying off, but won't say how much is coming in. DiFi and her finance people are putting MUCHO TIME into this effort...

...One thing which is NOT consuming DiFi's time is unifying Calif. Democrats. Wilson has tried to exploit what his campaign sees as major rift within party ranks after a tough Democratic primary. But most Demo sources say this is just wishful thinking

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on Wilson's part. Much of the unifying process was accomplished with strategic planning just prior to the June 5 primary. That unity tour up and down the State with DiFi, AG John Van de Kamp, Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy and other key Demos on June 6th did not take place by chance. There was prior planning and it paid off...

...As for Wilson & Co., they too are in the process of retooling their campaign. After all, it wasn't until very late in the Demo primary that Wilson's team suspected that Van de Kamp might not make it. And up until that time, all the planning for the general election had been done with VdK as the Demo nominee - not DiFi. Needless to say, DiFi's win has dramatically altered the Wilson strategy and right now he's having a few problems adjusting...

...As for who is ahead at this point in the campaign, most CALPEEK insiders agree with the latest L.A. Times survey, which is the most current of all the major polls. It was taken between June 14-20, with a sample size of 1,729 registered voters. It shows DiFi with a small lead of 40% to 37%, with 2% for others and 21% with no opinion...

...Given the fact that most of the other polls showed Wilson ahead of Feinstein by about 5-7 points in 1-on-1 matches prior to and immediately after the June 5 primary, most CALPEEK sources feel DiFi accomplished another turnaround of about 9 points...

...The so-called BUMP coming out of her 52% to 41% win over VdK might have been bigger, but Wilson's savvy campaign team realized this might happen and mounted a free and paid media counter-blitz to cut the bump. Bottomline: DiFi's lead in the latest poll is statistically meaningless, but it does provide the very thing she needs more than anything else - proof to Demo fat cats that she has a good chance to upset Wilson in November. Stay tuned...

GOP TARGETS 6 DEMO ASSEMBLY SEATS FOR FALL.

No major surprises on the target list being drawn up by the leadership of the Assembly Republicans. The six incumbent Demos on the hit list are Norm Waters, Ted Lempert, Dom Cortese, Sal Cannella, Bob Epple and Steve Clute. The only Republican on the Demo hit list is Curt Pringle of Orange County. Stay tuned...

PEACE CORPS PATTI IN THE RACE FOR 5th S.D. Patricia Garamendi, wife of State Sen. John Garamendi (D-Stockton), has announced that she plans to seek her husband's job in the CA State Senate should he win this November as Calif.'s first elected Insurance Commission. Most CALPEEK sources think John Garamendi is a prohibitive favorite to defeat GOP IC candidate Wes Bannister of Huntington Beach. If that's the case, then a special election would probably be called in early 1991...

...Patti Garamendi has hired veteran Demo campaign consultant Larry Sheingold of Sacramento and those who have seen her in recent weeks at various fundraisers and public events think she will be a formidable Democratic contender. However, she's not the only Demo looking things over. It is very likely that Assemblyman Patrick Johnston of Stockton also will be in the race and he'll have backing from the Demo leadership team, who aren't exactly happy campers when it comes to Peace Corps Patti and her campaign for the 5th S.D. FYI: Patti and John Garamendi were Peace Corps volunteers in Ethiopia and India...

VISCO, BROWN FACE ANGER WITHIN PARTY RANKS.

It's not a pleasant time for the two bosses of Calif.'s major political parties -- CDP Chair Jerry Brown or CRP Chair Frank Visco. Both are under siege from a growing number of elected officials and party activists, unhappy with the way the two organizations are being run...

...Visco first. When the State GOP meets July 20-22 in San Diego for its summertime convention, Visco may have his hands full on at least two key fronts. The Republican County Central Committee chairs are reported to be FURIOUS with the CRP for suspending the well-oiled GOP voter registration bounty program for about 2 months. The problem is there is no fixed date as to when the registration bounty program will be resumed. As several CALPEEK sources have noted, the timing is really terrible...

...The other major problem for Visco is trying to explain the fiasco over the defeats of both REAPPORTIONMENT measures on the June 1990 ballot. Better yet, Visco may be asked to explain why there were TWO measures instead of one, thus splitting re-

sources which were in short supply anyway. Some sources are placing the entire blame for the June mess right in Visco's lap...

...Now for Calif.'s former Demo governor, Jerry Brown. 1989 was a fantastic first year for Brown as CDP chairman. Sources say he raised over \$3 million and the party could claim a good deal of credit for their field program which helped Demos win three special elections. These victories may have silenced critics, but the special election wins only masked some more serious problems that surfaced this year...

...While Brown did raise a ton of money to get the CDP up and running, he and his top aide, CDP 1st Vice Chair Cathy Calfo, also hired a huge staff of about 37, with Brown having his own personal staff of 5. The overhead caught up with Brown earlier this year and the party was forced to lay off almost the entire field staff of 12. The party has trimmed down to around 19, but some say this is still too much...

...As a result of the money shortfall, some sources think 78th A.D. Demo candidate Mike Gotch lost in the June 5 special election in San Diego. As was noted earlier, in the other specials the CDP had played a major role in GOTV and field operations. With no money for this special, Gotch was outgunned by Republican Jeff Marston, who had considerable help from the Visco's CRP...

...But there's more. Calfo, who had been serving as the party's executive director, RESIGNED that post just after the primary. Although she still is 1st VC, questions have been raised as to why she resigned as executive director. She has told friends it was just time to move on, but others sources think she may have been pushed out by Brown's pal and guru, Jacques Barzaghi, who is a paid CDP consultant. Barzaghi's friend, Diane Hansch, is now the acting exec. director of the party. From an image/PR point of view, unhappy Demos say its "Back to the Future IX with Gov. Moonbeam." Jerry and Jacques are co-producing...

...Bottomline: although the current picture isn't as rosey as it could be for either Visco or Brown, somehow these two party chairs will muddle through the 1990 election. Unhappy GOP campers can only

hope that Visco's replacement next year will be able to once again unify the CRP. As for Brown, his term isn't up until 1993. Stay tuned...

GOP CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO JULY 20-22.

The Calif. Republican Party will hold its Summer 1990 convention at the Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, July 20-22. White House Chief of Staff John Sununu is one of the guest speakers...

CAMPAIGN 1990: FALL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: In addition to the big run-off elections for mayor in San Jose and Oakland, plus a few runoffs for county supervisor, DA and sheriffs, about 185 cities throughout Calif. will hold municipal elections on Nov. 6th. In Part I of this continuing series CALPEEK will briefly preview some of the key local BALLOT MEASURES...

- 1/2-CENT SALES TAX - At least 4 counties will go for 1/2 cent sales tax hikes for transportation purposes this November. In light of Props. 108, 111 and 116, these measures may already be in some difficulty. But Ventura and San Joaquin Counties will move ahead, and perhaps Stanislaus as well. And ORANGE COUNTY will make another run with Daughter of Measure M. But whether it's son or daughter, early polling by Moore Methods of Sacto for the YES side shows 65% support another attempt, with 25% opposed and the rest undecided. In a special last November, Measure M got mashed after spending about \$3 million. But the YES side thinks a regular election, with a bigger voter turnout, might make a difference. In the special last November, 78% of the eligible voters stayed home...

- RENT CONTROL - Landlord groups in two of Calif.'s HARDLINE rent control cities, Berkeley and Santa Monica, have both turned in petitions for ballot measures which would significantly weaken current rent control laws. In Berkeley, the proposal by the Black Property Owners Assn. would exempt from rent control about 70% of the apartments and homes from the cities 10-yr. old law. The plan exempts units renting for less than 65% of what the U.S. government considers fair market price. Alameda Co. officials are still checking names, but

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some think this measure will qualify for November. Meanwhile in Santa Monica, the landlords have qualified a measure that permits rents to increase to market value for units which have been voluntarily vacated. On July 24, the city council will probably place its own vacancy decontrol alternative on the ballot. It's not as generous as the other measure, but would allow increases of between 10-20%, IF the landlord agreed to keep his unit(s) on the market for a 10-yr. period without removing them via the Ellis Act. In Santa Monica, nearly 1,000 rental units have been taken off the market under this law...

- OPEN SPACE & DEVELOPMENT - Slow growth advocates and tree huggers will love some of these measures. In Contra Costa County there is a measure in the signature gathering phase which would kill off a proposed landfill site and make it a wildlife habitat. Likewise in San Diego, voters may get a chance to vote on a \$80 million bond act to buy undeveloped turf and turn it into a wildlife habitat. And in San Francisco, Santa Fe/Pacific will probably have to take its plan for a huge commercial/residential development in the Mission Bay area to the voters...

- ETHICS & TERM LIMITS - Backers of a 2-term limit measure for elected officials in L.A. City failed to round up enough signatures to make the November ballot. However, in San Jose, where Mayor Tom McEnery is stepping down after his 2-term limit, he is pushing a 3-term limit and ethics package for the city council. CALPEEK sources feel this plan will be placed on the November ballot...

- CARD CLUB - An old fashioned shoot out is shaping up for West Hollywood, where backers of a proposed poker club are more than sure they've collected enough valid signatures to make the November ballot. And while there will be significant opposition, this upscale city of 38,000 sandwiched between Beverly Hills and L.A. City is in the midst of slashing its budget for the first time since it became a city. Revenue projections from such a card club might put as much as \$5-10 million in the city's bank account each year, making this a very attractive proposal. More in the weeks ahead. Stay tuned...

MORE PRISONS MEANS MORE CLOUT FOR CCPOA.

In case you haven't noticed, as Gov. George Deukmejian's administration builds more prisons to "lock up the thugs," it's also adding MORE correctional officers to the already powerful and growing CA Correctional Peace Officers Assn.(CCPOA). By the time this issue hits the street, the CCPOA will have already conducted its endorsement interviews with all of the Statewide candidates. Those endorsements should be made public sometime this week. The CCPOA, with a membership of about 20,000, was organized labor's LARGEST contributor to Props. 111 & 108, with contributions totalling \$155,000. In the fall election, CALPEEK sources expect CCPOA to play a key role in backing Gov. Duke's Prison Inmate Labor initiative, which is expected to qualify...

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